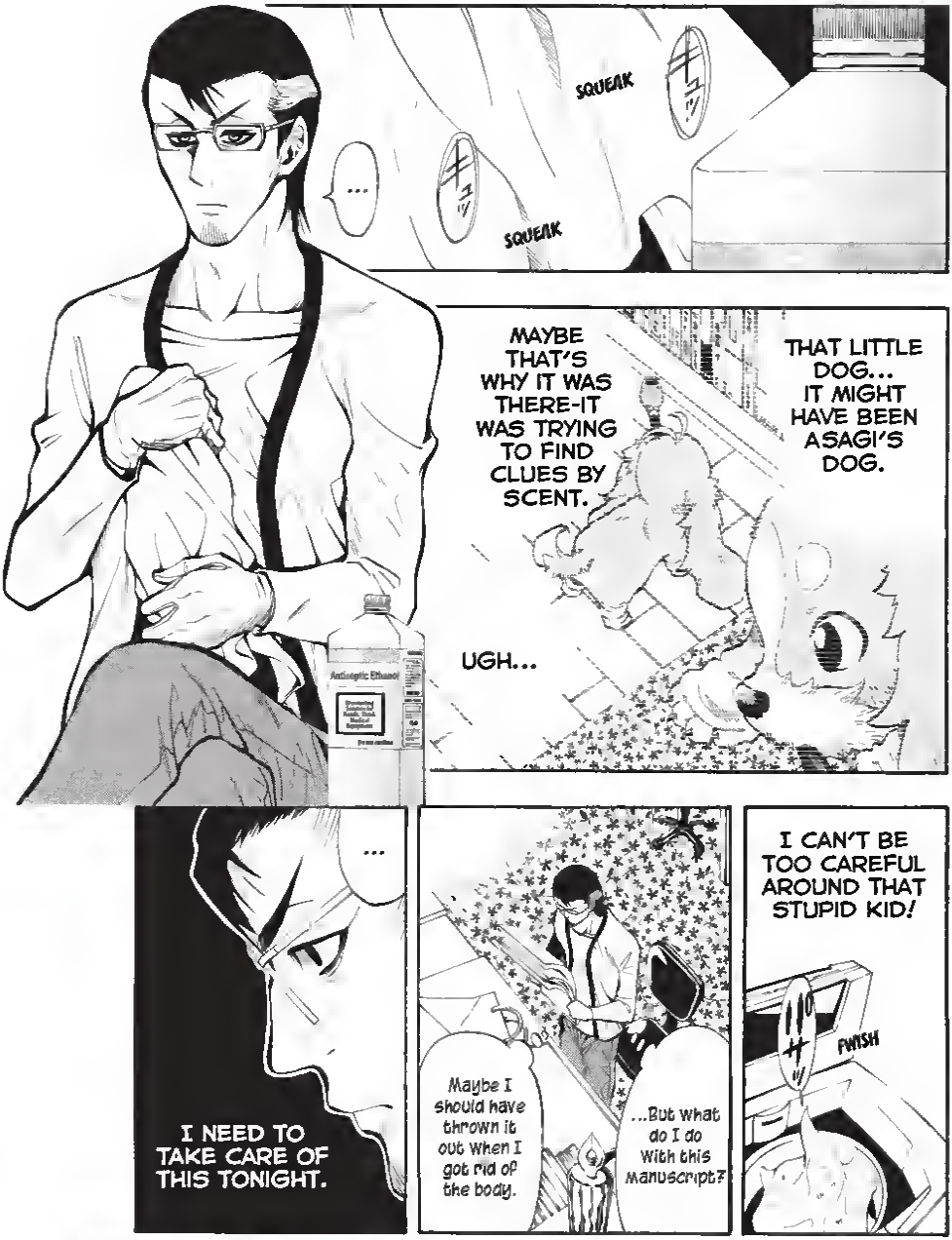
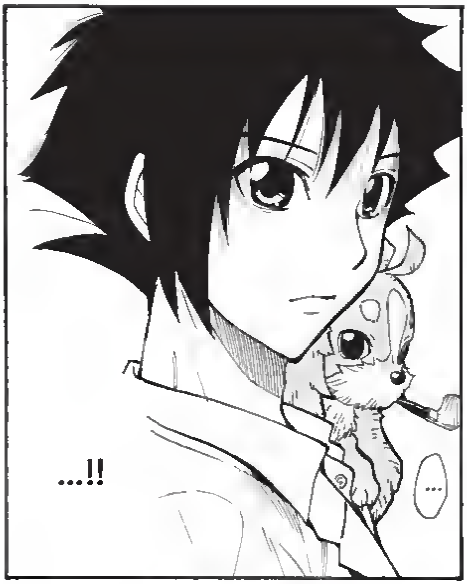

SQUEAK
SQUEAK
...
MAYBE THAT'S WHY IT WAS THERE-IT WAS TRYING TO FIND CLUES BY SCENT.
THAT LITTLE DOG... IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ASAGI'S DOG.
UGH...
...
I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF THIS TONIGHT.
Maybe I should have thrown it out when I got rid of the body.
...But what do I do With this Manuscript?
I CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL AROUND THAT STUPID KID!
FWISH

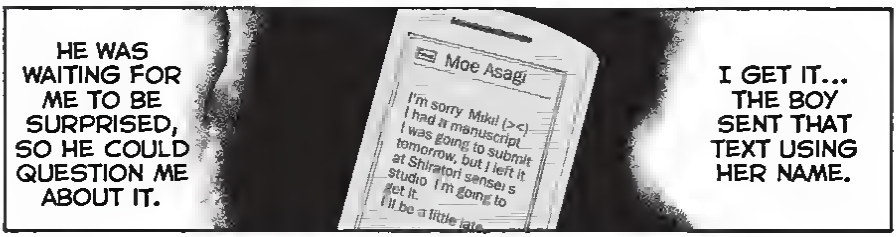
CHAK
Oh!
Oh, good.
You're still here!
...?!

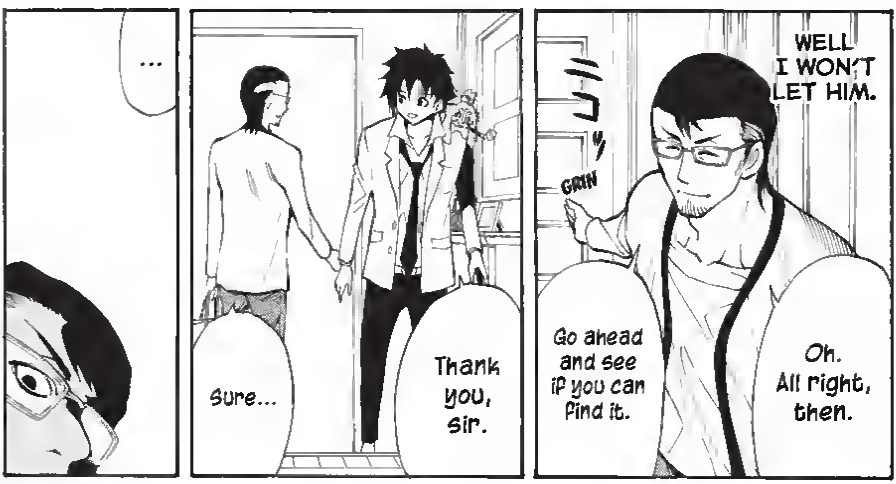
I Forgive you. Now it's late—you should get home.
. That's all right. I'm sure you were shaken up by your friend's death.
Yes, but I just have one last favor to ask you...
You're my best friend's mentor. I shouldn't have said those terrible things.
I'm so sorry.
ペコ
BOW
I came back to apologize.
!
We were hoping you'd let us look for Asagi's manuscript.
...
From
Moé Asagi
I'm sorry, Miki! (><)
I had a manuscript I was going to submit tomorrow, but I left it at Shiratori-sensei's studio. I'm going to get it.
I'll be a little late.
HOW DID SHE GET THIS TEXT?
...Manu-script?
Yes.
See this text message?

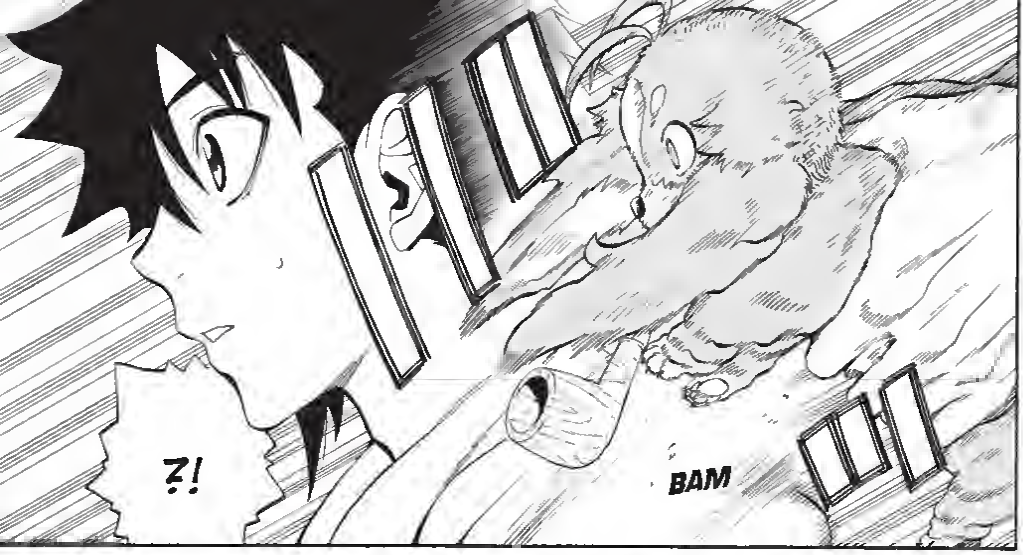

...!!
...

She must have been attacked on her way back.
I'm sorry I should have checked my phone.
You were right, Shiratori-sensei.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
ASAGI NEVER LEFT THE STUDIO.

GLANCE
チラ!!


HE WAS WAITING FOR ME TO BE SURPRISED, SO HE COULD QUESTION ME ABOUT IT.
Moe Asagi
I'm sorry Miki! (><)
I had a manuscript I was going to submit tomorrow, but I left it at Shiratori sensei's studio. I'm going to get it.
I'll be a little late.
I GET IT... THE BOY SENT THAT TEXT USING HER NAME.


...
Sure...
Thank you, sir.
GRIN
Go ahead and see if you can find it.
WELL I WON'T LET HIM.
Oh. All right, then.


?!
BAM

OR IF HE'S BARKING BECAUSE HE DOESN'T LIKE ME HOLDING HIM
NOW THEY WON'T KNOW IF HE'S BARKING BECAUSE HE SMELLS —ASAGI'S MANUSCRIPT,
THE DOG MAY BE SMART, BUT IT STILL CAN'T TALK.

...!
ARF
ARF

ARF
ARF
ARF
ARF
ARF
We wouldn't want a repeat of what happened earlier.
I'll hold that dog for you.

OF COURSE! GOT IT.
NOD

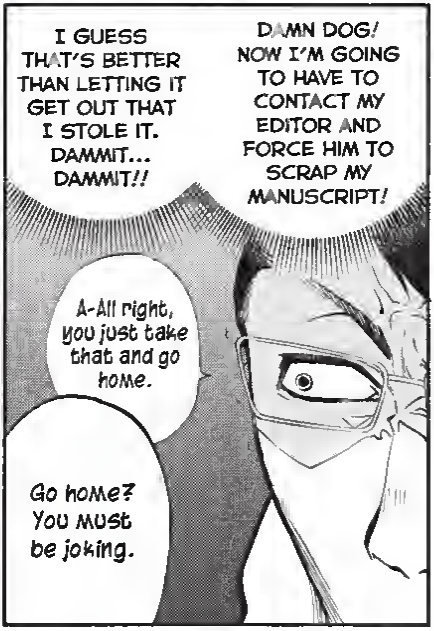
There is only one reason for him to pick me up.
ARF
ARF
ARF
Don't worry, Watson!!

Yeow?!
CHOMP
Ack! Hey, Sherdog!!
Ngh
THUD
CHOMP
CHOMP
THP
I'm so sorry. That must be important!
GAH
Let me see if he damaged anything.
Uh...!
You're right. It has her signature on it!
This manuscript... isn't it Asagi's?
RUSTLE
...Huh?

Now we know
your motive for killing Asagi.
All we need is some definitive proof. We can't leave!
Wha...!

Why didn't you tell us?
Sensei... you were holding it...?

It must have gotten mixed in with mine.
Oh, I, uh...I didn't realize.

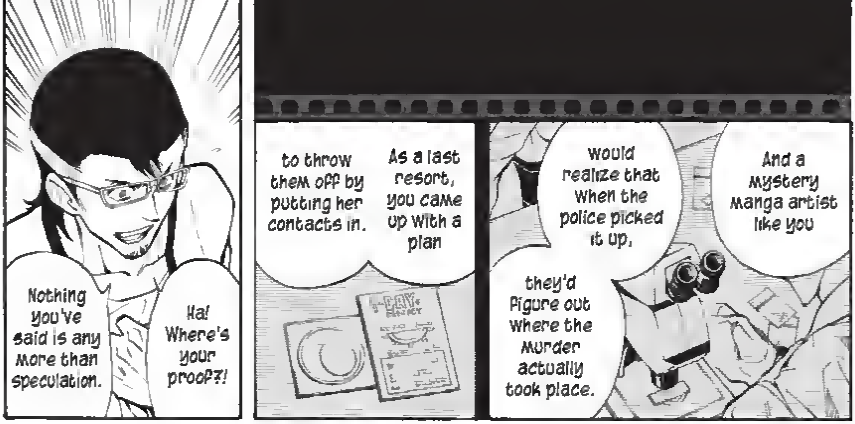

I GUESS THAT'S BETTER THAN LETTING IT GET OUT THAT I STOLE IT. DAMMIT... DAMMIT!!
DAMN DOG! NOW I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CONTACT MY EDITOR AND FORCE HIM TO SCRAP MY MANUSCRIPT!
A-All right, you just take that and go home.
Go home? You must be joking.

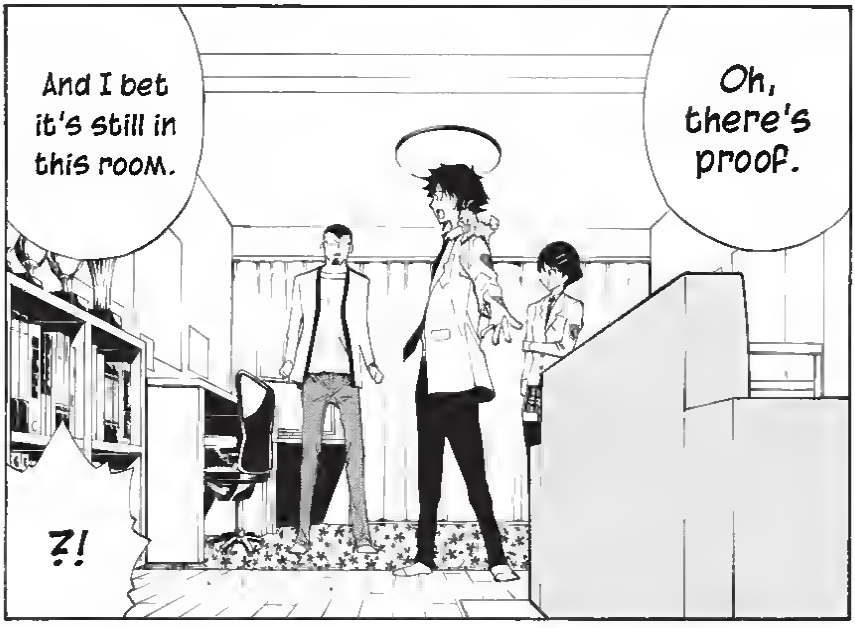
That's quite a temper you've got there.
...
CLACK
"What did you—"
GAH
Are you going to hit me with that?
GASP
That's ridiculous!! One more false accusation and I'll...
Isn't that what happened?
you grabbed the nearest blunt object and hit her on the back of the head?
Is that why, when Asagi confronted you about her manuscript,
It's not a false accusation!

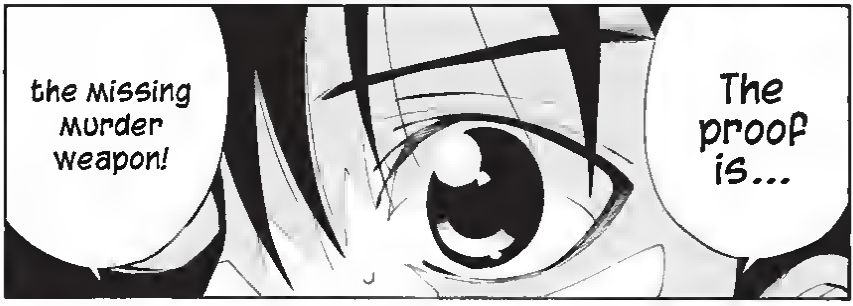
That's why there were no marks on her face,
When you hit Asagi, she fell on the rug.
and why her clothes weren't dirty.
You changed it because the other one had Asagi's blood on it. Didn't you?
This rug.
...
I bet the old one matched the room a lot better.
But you messed up when you left her lying face-up in the alley.
What?
But it just didn't make sense.
That's probably why you left her like that—out of habit.
When you draw the murder scenes in your manga,
you always draw the victims so we can see their faces, like those posters by your front door.

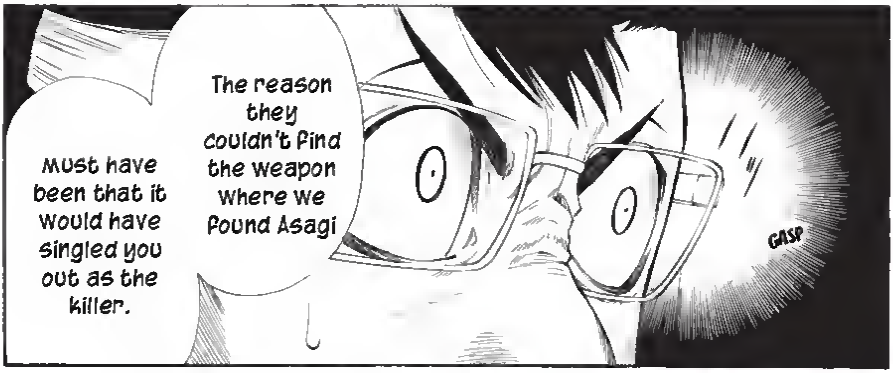
COULDN'T THE KILLER JUST GATHER UP THE GLASSES PIECES AND LEAVE THEM AT THE SCENE?
remember what you said?
to hide the fact that her glasses had been broken,
When I suggested that the killer put in the contacts
But now I know why you couldn't.
ISS
You're absolutely right.
Because of all these screen tone bits.
That's why the killer couldn't have thrown out the glasses with the body!

I remember something that happened on our middle school class trip.
Oh, man, not again...
What's wrong, Moé?
So in a professional studio, there'd be even more of it sticking to everything!
It was all over Moe, and she was just an amateur.
I thought I'd gotten it all off of me, but there's always some stuck somewhere.
There's a piece of screen tone floating in the water.
That's what she said!
Mixed in with the broken lenses!
When you saw all the tiny bits of screen tone
you must have had a startling realization
When you gathered up all the pieces of her glasses,


Nothing you've said is any more than speculation.
Ha! Where's your proof?!
to throw them off by putting her contacts in.
As a last resort, you came up with a plan
they'd figure out where the murder actually took place.
would realize that when the police picked it up,
And a mystery manga artist like you


And I bet it's still in this room.
Oh, there's proof.
?!


the missing murder weapon!
The proof is...

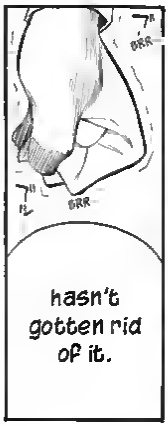

The reason they couldn't find the weapon where we found Asagi
Must have been that it would have singled you out as the killer.
GASP

You even started talking about that sock trick.
It was like you were trying really hard to get the focus off of that weapon.
FOR EX AMPLE...
YOU COULD FILL A SOCK WITH GRAVEL
SWOOSH
HMMM
SS
OO

While you were out disposing of the body.
But, in that case, you would have gotten rid of it somewhere

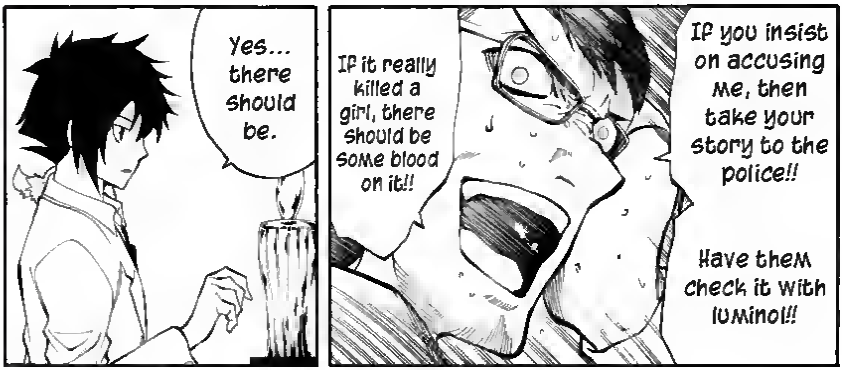
But you reacted,
as soon as I mentioned the weapon.

Or maybe it's more than that.
Maybe he *can't* get rid of it.
Maybe it was...
...


DRR
DRR
hasn't gotten rid of it.

Then it hit me.
Maybe he still...

THAT'S A PRIZED POSSES-SION!!
DON'T TOUCH THAT!!
I WOULD NEVER HIT SOMEONE WITH SOME-THING SO PRECIOUS!!
An award.
Like this trophy.


Yes... there should be.
If it really killed a girl, there should be some blood on it!!
If you insist on accusing me, then take your story to the police!!
Have them check it with luminol!!

Carefully, thoroughly... so you wouldn't leave a trace...
That's why you were so desperate to wipe it off.
GLARE
and so, even though your other trophies—like that golf trophy—are covered in dust,
this giant manga trophy doesn't have a speck on it.
Until a minute ago, you twitched whenever anyone talked about the weapon.
But now you're saying that we should take this trophy to the police and have them investigate it.
You want to know how I know?
Wha...
We don't need to investigate the trophy.
Besides,

Be careful, Watson!
If you don't keep your voice calm, he'll lose his temper.
you only just wiped it down!!
Which means
BAM
BAM
Aha. That dirty rag in the washing machine...

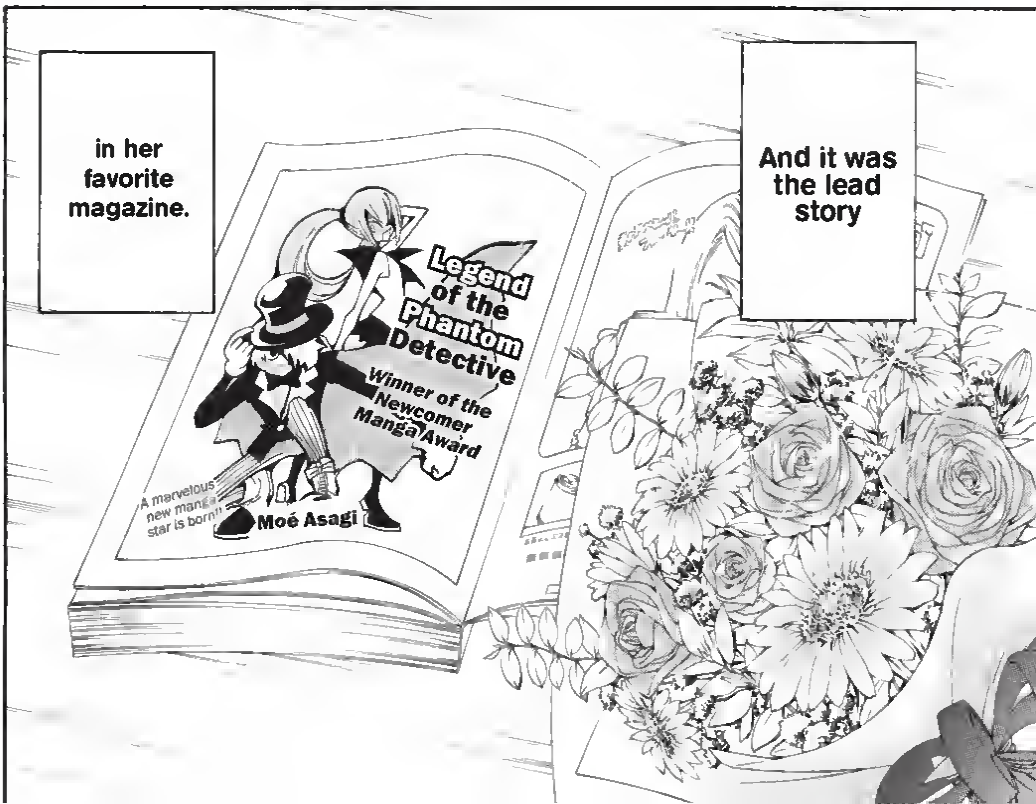
do you think the police will find Asagi's blood on it?

WHAT
WHAM
THMP
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?!
SNAP
Takeru!!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW...
WHOOSH
Watson!!
BLAM

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I didn't mean to be late.
...Sorry, Takeru.
You're under arrest!!
...
FLOP
you're charged with the murder of your assistant Moé Asagi.
Manga artist Ryūnosuke Shiratori
CLUNK

...Thanks, but... it won't bring Asagi back.
...
No it won't...
But well done.
...That was reckless, Watson.
...
Don't be stupid. The first shot was a blank.
Sis, did you have to fire that in the building?
What?
I don't know about that, Miki.
There's something we can do.
Huh...?
Moé's dream...Will never come true.
...

Miki and I submitted Asagi's last manuscript for her.
It won the new artist award.
A marvelous new manga star is born!!
Moé Asagi


in her favorite magazine.
Legend of the Phantom Detective
Winner of the Newcomer Manga Award
A marvelous new manga star is born!!
Moé Asagi
And it was the lead story